

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 1, 2000 (BOS Mtg. 3/15/00)
TO: York County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Daniel M. Stuck, County Administrator *DM*
SUBJECT: Greater Peninsula Workforce Development

There is a growing emphasis on the need for quality workforce development activities in the Hampton Roads region. In that regard, there is an on-going effort among the localities in the Greater Peninsula area to enhance workforce development activities. This is intended to better coordinate a variety of somewhat fragment programs and to strengthen the voice of the regional business community in guiding efforts to assure a quality work force now and well into the future.

Background

As the Board will recall, the County has been actively involved in workforce development activities on the Virginia Peninsula for many years. This includes participation in the Peninsula Alliance for Economic Development, involvement in the discussions and concerns of the Mayors and Chairs for the Peninsula and for Hampton Roads.

York also participates in the Private Industry Council and Consortium of Governments that manages federal funding through the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). In addition to York County, this regional collaboration includes the localities of:

- Newport News
- Hampton
- Poquoson
- Williamsburg
- James City County
- Gloucester County

The York Board of Supervisors appoints citizen representatives of business and industry to the Private Industry Council (PIC) and has a staff representative on the Consortium of Governments. Anne Smith, the County's Director of Community Services, serves in that capacity.

These entities serve as a conduit for federal funds and provide the structure for oversight. Newport News and Hampton receive very substantial federal funds. York, of course, is smaller and also enjoys very low poverty and unemployment rates. As a consequence, the County receives much less federal funding -- \$75,000 in JTPA funds for a 12-month program implemented by the School Division and an additional approximately \$35,000 for a summer youth program managed by the Community Services Department.

Congress is currently phasing out the JTPA and has enacted the Workforce Investment

Act. This legislation requires a Workforce Investment Board (WIB) that is heavily representative of local business and industry and an organization similar to the current Consortium of Governments. Amongst other things, the Act strives to better consolidate and integrate the federal and state agencies and revenue streams that are currently somewhat fragmented. It is hoped that this will also improve the interface with local initiatives.

This coincides with economic development concerns on the Peninsula and in Hampton Roads. The Mayors and Chairs and the newly formed Peninsula Alliance for Economic Development have significantly increased the emphasis placed on cooperation and joint economic interests. Amongst other activities, local governments have been looking at ways to assure the existence of a well-qualified workforce. This concern has recently resulted in a proposed consolidated workforce development center to be constructed adjacent to Thomas Nelson Community College. The Commonwealth financially supports the Center and each Peninsula locality has made a monetary commitment.

On August 4, 1999, the York Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution R99-130, which established a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement among the current member localities of the Consortium of Governments. This Agreement supports a model that was developed by the Consortium representatives and found acceptable by both the Mayors and Chairs and the Alliance.

The Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement was the first step in a series of formal actions necessary to continue and expand the regions support for work force development. The Agreement provided for:

- The conversion of the existing Private Industry Council to a "Workforce Investment Board". This is a "local board" as required by the Workforce Investment Act and is intended to be the means by which the business community's voice on the needs and direction of workforce development activities is heard.
- Compliance with various federal and state requirements associated with the conversion of the JTPA to the Workforce Investment Act and the necessary continuity to prevent any loss of federal job training funds.
- A Service Delivery Area for these activities which continues to be the six Peninsula localities and Gloucester County.
- Established a workable structure for operations that is responsive to the interests of business and industry but defers the detail activities necessary for the stewardship of federal job training funds to the local governments which are legally responsible for the implementation.
- It provided for local government representation.

Current

The next step in this process is the adoption of an intergovernmental agreement that:

1. Supersedes the prior agreement associated with JTPA.
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2. Establishes the "Greater Peninsula Workforce Development Consortium" and authorizes it to act in conjunction with the Workforce Investment Board to engage in planning, policy development and oversight of programs authorized under Title I of the Workforce Investment Act.
3. Provides for the continuation of the program staff employed in the prior regional board for the purposes of implementing various federally funded programs and desired local initiatives.
4. Establishes membership of the Consortium as one elected official and an alternate who is also an elected official, from the governing bodies of each member locality.
5. Provides a mechanism for voting and the orderly conduct of business.
6. Gives the Consortium the responsibility for appointing members to the Workforce Investment Board (the local board), to include business community candidates as solicited by the Peninsula Alliance for Economic Development.
7. Authorizes the City of Newport News to continue serving as fiscal agent.

Recommendation

This is the next step on a series of important actions required to eliminate fragmentation among programs, promote better coordination of efforts; to assure continued flow of federal funds to the Greater Peninsula and to otherwise enhance much needed workforce development activities. I recommend adoption of Resolution R00-3.

Smith/4111

Attachments:

- Peninsula Workforce Investment Board Model Diagram
- Resolution R00-3